

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for viewing digital still photographs, the apparatus comprising:

data input means for inputting at least one digital data file representing a digital still photograph, the at least one digital data file having at least one of a time and location stamp indicating a time when the photograph was taken or a location where the photograph was taken, respectively;

a display for displaying the digital still photograph;

digital still photograph rendering means for inputting the at least one digital data file to the display for rendering of the corresponding digital still photograph on the display; and

ambient alteration means for altering an ambient characteristic based on at least one of the time and location stamps.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data input means is a media drive for reading the at least one digital data file from a media contained in the media drive.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the media drive is one of a CD player, DVD player, floppy drive, and digital camera media card reader.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data input means comprises a modem operatively connected to one of a network, storage device, and digital still camera.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data input means comprises a connector operatively connected through a cable to one of a network, storage device, and digital still camera.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data input means comprises a connector wirelessly connected to one of a network, storage device, and digital still camera.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ambient alteration means comprises a lighting system and the ambient characteristic comprises an ambient lighting in an area proximate the display.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the lighting system changes the ambient lighting to reproduce a lighting characteristic of at least one of the time when the digital photograph was taken and the location where the digital photograph was taken.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ambient alteration means comprises an audio rendering system and at least one speaker operatively connected thereto and wherein the ambient characteristic comprises reproducing audio in an area proximate the display.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the reproduced audio is characteristic of at least one of the time when the digital photograph was taken and the location where the digital photograph was taken.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one other display in an area proximate the display, wherein the ambient characteristic comprises the at least one other display.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a display on the one other display is representative of a historical period within the time when the digital photograph was taken.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a display on the one other display is representative of a geographical location where the digital photograph was taken.

14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ambient alteration means comprises an advertisement generation means for generating at least one of an audio or visual advertisement on the at least one other display or a speaker operatively connected to the apparatus.

15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the one other display comprises a picture-in-picture display displayed on the display.

16. An apparatus for viewing digital still photographs, the apparatus comprising:

data input means for inputting at least one digital data file representing a digital still photograph, the at least one digital data file having at least one of a time and location stamp indicating a time when the photograph was taken or a location where the photograph was taken, respectively;

digital still photograph rendering means for inputting the at least one digital data file to a display for rendering of the corresponding digital still photograph;
and

signal generation means for generation of a signal for altering an ambient characteristic based on at least one of the time and location stamps.

17. A method for viewing digital still photographs, the method comprising:

inputting at least one digital data file representing a digital still photograph, the at least one digital data file having at least one of a time and location stamp indicating a time when the photograph was taken or a location where the photograph was taken, respectively;

displaying the digital still photograph; and

altering an ambient characteristic based on at least one of the time and location stamps.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the altering comprises altering an ambient lighting in an area proximate the display.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the altering of the ambient lighting comprises at least one of reproducing a lighting for the time when the digital photograph was taken and the location where the digital photograph was taken.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the altering comprises reproducing audio in an area proximate the display.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the audio reproduced is characteristic of at least one of the time when the digital photograph was taken and the location where the digital photograph was taken.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein the altering comprises controlling at least one other display in an area proximate the display.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the controlling comprises displaying indicia on the one other display representative of a historical period within the time when the digital photograph was taken.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the controlling comprises displaying indicia on the one other display representative of a geographical location where the digital photograph was taken.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the controlling comprises displaying an advertisement on the at least one other display.

26. A display comprising:
a display portion for rendering images; and
an illumination means separate from the display portion for illuminating an area proximate the display portion to change the lighting in the area.

27. A speaker comprising:
an audio reproduction means for reproducing audio in an area proximate the audio reproduction means; and
an illumination means for illuminating the area to change the lighting in the area.